MC900078840[1]**Bligh’s Lane Nursery School**

**Newsletter February 2022**

Monthly Theme

##### The theme for this month is ‘Myself and My Family’. The children will be involved in discussions about themselves, the people they love and people who help us. We will be talking about our bodies, how they work and the importance of healthy foods and exercise. If you have anything ‘Love’ related e.g. Heart shapes, please bring them into school. Our story of the month is the much loved fairytale ‘Little Red Riding Hood.’

* ***Songs and Rhymes***

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| * Friends | * I have ten little fingers |
| * Polly put the kettle on | * Two little eyes |
| * When Goldilocks went to the house of the Bears | * One Little Finger * Open Them, Shut Them |
| * Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes | * Fire Engine Rhyme |
| * If you’re happy and you know it | * I look in the mirror |
| * Granny’s glasses * Rock-a-bye baby | * Miss Polly had a Dolly * I wiggle my fingers * Bend your body |

 Early Mathematical Experiences

We will be developing an awareness of the Heart shape this month and also reinforcing prepositions and concepts: ‘In Front / Behind, First and Last’. There should also be lots of opportunity to point out ‘heart shapes’ in town this month! The development of other aspects of maths can be seen on the Monthly Planning sheet on the Parents’ Notice Board.

j0251301Early Science

The children will be experimenting with mixing colours to make new colours using paint and crepe paper. Other aspects of science will be explored during discussions about the body and functions of major organs (in simple terms).

MC900048279[1]Mid-Year Reports

##### Mrs Doherty, Mrs Woods and Mrs O’Doherty are completing the children’s mid-year Reports. You will have the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher before the end of February to discuss your child’s progress.

Dental Hygiene

As part of our topic this month, we will be learning about “People who help us”. We will talk about going to the dentist and learn about the importance of looking after our teeth. The children will learn about the importance of looking after their teeth and healthy eating and drinking.

Focusing on Developing Your Child’s Language Skills

MC900056589[1]The staff have been working especially hard this year with promoting the development of language skills. During our last parent/teacher meetings lots of parents asked how they can help their child, so in addition to the weekly book and ‘Book of the Month’ will begin to send home language packs. The activities in these packs aim to give you some idea of how you can help to boost your child’s language development at home. A little time spent helping your child with language each week will help him/her to be ready for the demands of Primary school. You will also find a ‘Parents’ Comments’ book which can be used to let us know how your child responds to the activities. We may also send home packs which promote mathematical or another area of development. Your child will not get an extra ‘homework pack’ on the week they have the ‘Book of the Month.’

**To help us get the children’s books ready every week we ask that you return book-bags on Monday.**

Getting Ready to Learn- Come Read with Me

Thank you to you all for your commitment to borrowing and reading books to your children from our lending library.

We would usually have our ‘Come Read with Me’ sessions in February. Parents would sign up to come in for 15-20 minutes at the beginning of the day to read a story/stories to their child and other children in our book corner. Unfortunately Covid 19 will prevent us from doing this but we would still love your input. If you would like to record yourself reading a book we could show it to your child with a group of friends- they would love it! Please let us know if you would like to take part- it doesn’t need to be long or all ‘bells and whistles’- the simpler the better!

Sharing From the Start

Our shared sessions finally began last week when we had a virtual meeting with the staff and children from both “Stepping Stones” (St Johnston) and from Cockhill. The children took part in the ‘Big Bird Watch’ and completed themed activities together. There will be a further virtual session on Thursday 11th February. We are really hoping that the children will get the chance for face to face meetings before the end of the year.

Banyan Theatre

We are delighted that Banyan Theatre will be coming to Bligh’s Lane on 25th February with the story of ‘Red Riding Hood’. These productions are always such a magical experience and the children will be so excited to tell you about it.

MC900250141[1]School Photographer

The school photographer will visit on Friday 11th February. Every child will have 3 different ‘poses’ taken. You will receive a small sample of each of the poses and examples of the various sizes available, and you can then decide if you want to buy any of them. Photographs will be taken during class times. **We ask that children wear school uniform on the day as we will also have a class photo taken.** You may also bring other members of the family if you wish\* – photographs of family members will be taken as soon as the photographer is set up, usually from 8.30am, so come early if you want photos of your other child / children taken.

\*We ask that you adhere to Covid-19 protocols when you enter the building ie. Hand sanitizing, mask wearing wtc

Understanding your Child’s Behaviour Workshops

The final two sessions of this 4 week program will take place on Wednesday 2nd and 9th at 10am. I strongly encourage you to attend if possible. In Session Three, John will finish off his input on why children behave the way they do and what role we have to play, as adults, in these behaviours. Then, for the last session, he will respond to any questions/queries you may have. The format of this is a bit different because we are having to do these sessions virtually-

John has asked that you either send your queries to himself or to Mrs Woods in advance of the session on the 9th February. Mrs Woods will provide details of this closer to the time.

Eco-Schools and Forest Schools

Children will continue to take part in our Forest Schools program which forms part of our Eco-School bid and our Engage program. Children will visit the facilities at the Playtrail on 2nd and 23rd February. They will also begin to access our new planting beds at the entrance to the school. Again we ask for any parents or grandparents with a particular interest in this area to lend us their ‘green fingers’.

The children will participate in circle time with Mrs Doherty on Friday 4th February to learn about our new topic ‘Recycling’ which we will be focusing on this tern as we strive to achieve the ‘Silver’ status award on our journey towards the ‘Green Flag.’

We are asking children to bring in one item from home which can be recycled during the week of 07/02/22. There will be large bins positioned at the school gates labelled ‘Card’, ‘Plastic’, ‘Paper’ and we encourage you to invite your child to place their item into the correct bin.

We hope to use these items for junk art and develop their creativity as they create 3D models alongside strengthening their awareness of looking after the world they live in!

Arrangements for after half-term

We had a bit of a rocky start to the new term with Covid-19 having a big impact we are hopeful that this wave has now passed. We would like to thank you for your cooperation and patience during this time. After the half-term we want to return to the dropping off procedures that were in place before Christmas, albeit with slight changes.

* Parents will be allowed to drop their children at the classroom door, as before, but must wear a mask to enter the building and adhere to the one way system in place
* We will continue with the staggered drop off and pick up times for now:

Mrs Woods/Doherty's Class: Drop off 8.45-9.00am and Pick up: 1.00-1.15pm

Mrs O'Doherty's Class: Drop off 9.00-9.15am and Pick up: 1.15-1.30pm

We ask that you adhere to these times in order to keep everyone safe. We will review these again in the coming weeks as the guidance changes

Snack Money Reminder

Please remember to pay your weekly snack money. It is a bargain at £2 per week- many nurseries charge more than double this! As well as buying the foods and drinks for snack it also pays for our trips out and for any extra activities within school such as Banyan Theatre.

Mid-Term Break

The school will be closed to the children on the following dates:  **Monday 14thto Friday 18th February. School will re-open as normal on Monday 21st February**

Birthdays this Month

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| * Sofia Keenan-Ballantine * Seth McLaughlin-Gillespie | * Cian Conaghan |